

## FAQ: Frequently asked questions about the Helmholtz Doctoral Prize 2023 – Track A

- *How should the wording “Doctoral candidates [...] must have completed their doctorate [...] in the past 14 months.” be understood?*

This means, that the doctorate may have been completed no more than 14 months before the deadline for submitting the application to the Helmholtz Office. The date of the defense is decisive. Example: The deadline for submitting the application is December 01, 2023. You defended your dissertation between October 01, 2022 and November 30, 2023 and thus fulfill the application requirements.

- *What exactly can the travel and material expense allowance be used for?*

The money is not intended as adequate financing, i.e., the salary of the sponsored persons is not to be covered by this. This is to continue to be borne by the Helmholtz Center. It is also not possible to transfer the funds to the foreign research institution (e.g. to finance personnel or investments). However, all other costs incurred in connection with the stay (travel, accommodation, material costs, etc.) are eligible for funding.

- *Does the stay abroad have to be a full six months?*

No, the maximum funding period is six months. The stay can be arranged flexibly by the sponsored persons. This means, for example, that three stays of two months each or one stay of four weeks and one stay of five months each can be completed. However, the maximum funding per month is 2,000 euros. If the total duration of the stay or stays is less than six months, the maximum funding amount is reduced accordingly. Example: Total duration of the stay = 5 months, maximum funding amount = 10,000 euros (5 x 2,000 EUR).

- *When should the stay abroad be taken up?*

The stay can be arranged flexibly by the grantees, but must be started within one year after notification of the funding decision.

- *Can the travel allowance and material expenses allowance also be claimed if the grantees are no longer employed at a Helmholtz Association center but at another scientific institution in Germany?*

No. The travel allowance and material expenses allowance may be claimed for a) carrying out a research stay at a foreign institution, provided that an employment relationship with a Helmholtz Centre exists during the entire stay, or b) for a stay at a Helmholtz Centre, provided that an employment relationship with a foreign research institution exists during the entire stay.

- *Who do I have to notify of the planned research stay?*

On the one hand, as he/she has to pay the costs in advance (see below). On the other hand, a brief information (host institution, activity, etc.) as well as a rough cost planning must be submitted to the Helmholtz Office by e-mail before the start of the stay.

- *How does the settlement of the travel and material cost allowance work?*

The respective Helmholtz Center must make advance payments for the financing of the research stays (both for stays abroad and for stays at a Center). Reimbursement by the Helmholtz Association office is then made after submission of the complete proof of costs on the basis of a supplementary contract with the center.